"KNEEL," SAID THE STOUT GENTLEMAN, "AND HOLD UP YOUR

HANDS.

will I tell here of our encounter, since, as a general rule—though I am prone to break it—the end of a story should come after rather than before the beginning. And the beginning of the story goes a long way back; indeed, it is now nearly 20 years since Fate, by a series of complicated and startling maneuvres, brought Mr. Ledbetter, so to speak, into my hands.

In those days I was living in Jamaica and Mr. Ledbetter was a schoelmaster in England. He was in orders, and altribute in the istory goes a long way back; indeed, it is now nearly 20 years since Fate, by a series of complicated and startling maneuvres, brought Mr. Ledbetter, so to speak, into my hands.

In those days I was living in Jamaica and Mr. Ledbetter was a schoelmaster in England. He was in orders, and altribute in the istory goes and the same or similar glasses, and the ist today, the same or similar glasses, and the same faint shadow of surprise in his resting expression. He was, of course, disheveled when I saw him, and his ecliar less of a collar han a wet bandage, and that may have helped to

"Have you any mates."

"In a few minutes, if you—"

"Have you any mates."

"No." said Mr. Ledbetter.

"I suppose it's a lie." said the stout man, "but you'll pay for it if it is. Why the devil didn't you floor me when I came upstairs? You won't get a chance to now, anyhow. Fancy getting under the bed! I reckon it's a fair cop, anyhow, so far as you are concerned."

"I don't see how I could prove an allibi." remarked Mr. Ledbetter, trying to show by his conversation that he was an educated man. There was a pause. Mr. Ledbetter perceived that on a chair beside his captor was a large black bag on a heap of crumpied papers, and that there were torn and burned papers on the table; and in front of these, and arranged methodically along the edge, were hows and rows of little yellow rouleaux—a hundred times more gold than Mr. Ledbetter had seen in all his life before. The light of two candles in silver candlesticks fell upon these. The pause continued. "It is rather fatiguing holding up my hands like this," said Mr. Ledbetter with a deprecatory smile.

"That's all right," said the fat man. "But what to do with you I don't exactly know."

"I know my position is ambiguous."

"Lordel" said the fat man. "Ambiguous! And goes about with his own roap, and wears a tunnelering great clerical collar! You are a blooming burglar, you are—if ever there was one."

"To be strictly accurate." said Mr. Ledbetter—and suddenly his glasses if or correct the care of the said and the said more and the said in friend to have a seasely the was to remain many dealer the base of the said and post of the garden for time what is a steep wooden stairwar descending to a bathing tent dimly vision of the life. At the diff is a steep wooden stairwar descending to a bathing tent dimly vision; the fat the life is a steep wooden stairwar descending to a bathing tent dimly vision; the fat the life is a steep wooden stairwar descending to a bathing tent dimly vision; the fat the life is a steep wooden stairwar descending to a bathing tent dimly vision; the

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MR. LEDBETTER'S VACATION.

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my attention. It has certainly saved many from Consumption. Sold by Nel-den-Judson and other druggists.

Hood's







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